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yond a certain limit, the slight contrast between the sky and the fainter corona will inevitably be lost.*

The problem of photographing the outer corona is the same as that of photographing light clouds near the sun, or a star in the daytime; and it appears that the failure of the mirrors of the British expeditions to show more extension than the cameras could have been predicted, even for the shorter exposures, and still more for the longer ones."

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

By A. B. Depuy, Secretary.

Note.—A letter from Mr. Depuy, Secretary of the Camden Astronomical Society (and also a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific), has lately been received, which gives an account of the organization and work of the former body. Mr. Depuy has consented to allow extracts from his letter to be printed here, as follows:

"In the fall of 1888, I was persuaded to purchase an old reflector. After setting it up in my back-yard, I invited some of my friends to call and examine it. Among them were Mr. E. E. Read Jr., our President, and Mr. Charles Bowden. Mr. Read was the possessor of a three-inch glass of French make, considered very fine, and Mr. Bowden of a four-inch, by Fitz. After seeing through my "cannon," as they were pleased to call it, Mr. Read became dissatisfied with his smaller glass, and determined to purchase a large one. It was subsequently proposed that we should form ourselves into a society, and that we should build and thoroughly equip an observatory for the use of the members.

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* M. A. de la Baume Pluvinel photographed the eclipse of December from a point near Cayenne, with five cameras of different light-ratios mounted on the same stand. He says of his results (*Comptes-Rendus*, 1890, February): "Une première comparaison des cinq épreuves montre que les objectifs les plus lumineux n'ont pas donnés des images plus complètes que les objectifs les moins lumineux. L'emploi d'instruments trop puissants n'est pas même à recommander, car l'image qu'ils donnent du ciel peut être assez intense pour se confondre avec l'image des régions peu lumineuses de la couronne."

An excellent illustration of the two methods referred to may be had by employing the same camera, *first*, to photograph the earth-light on the Moon in the dark evening sky, and, *second*, to photograph the Moon itself in broad daylight. In the first case the sky has little actinic effect and the exposure may be made, consequently, quite long—several minutes, for example. (See a note on this subject by Mr. Barnard in the present number of the *Publications*.) In the second instance the quickest exposures will alone give good results. As an example, I may quote negatives made with the great telescope $\left({}^{a}/_{f} = \frac{1}{17.8}\right)$ on April 23, 1890, with the Moon nearly on the meridian, about 4 P. M. An exposure of one-tenth second on Seed 26 plates gave a good contrast between the limb of the moon and the sky; other negatives taken April 26th, at 2 P.M., with the aperture contracted to fifteen inches $\left({}^{a}/_{f} = \frac{1}{38}\right)$ and exposure of one tenth of a second on similar plates, are far more satisfactory, as the details on the moon's surface begin to show.

On the 9th of January, 1889, we held our first meeting, with five members present. Mr. READ was elected President, and myself Secretary. We appointed committees on the observations of the sun, moon, stars, planets and nebulæ. These committees make reports (verbal) at each quarterly meeting, and a written report each year of the work done during that time.

Our instruments are as follows: The observatory, owned by Mr. READ, containing a 5½-inch refractor, mounted on an equatorial stand, with driving-clock and circles complete, by COOKE; sidereal clock; chronograph; two-inch transit; spectroscope, and electric illumination for circles. My own outfit consists of a 9½-inch reflector and photographic apparatus; Mr. BOWDEN has a four-inch refractor; Dr. R. M. LUTHER, a three-inch refractor; Professor F. P. LEAVENWORTH, at Haverford, has a ten-inch CLARK refractor; H. H. FURNESS, Jr., has a complete observatory, covering a 4½-inch refractor.

We now have fourteen members, most of whom have telescopes ranging from three to six-inch aperture.

As to our work: Mr. READ makes regular observations of the sun, noting all spots, determining their positions, and making drawings of all prominences. Mr. FURNESS is occupied with the same work. Professor LEAVENWORTH devotes himself to double-star measurements. Mr. HEWITT, one of our members living at Burlington, N. J., will shortly have mounted an excellent six-inch glass by GRUBB. I am at work on the moon, and have made about two dozen negatives, which, although very inferior, are showing signs of improvement.

In conclusion, I will say that we are all being greatly benefited by our association; and although our growth is slow, compared with that of our friends of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, we are gradually getting in a condition to do some real work in the future."

ELEMENTS OF COMET BROOKS (MARCH 19, 1890).

BY A. O. LEUSCHNER.

From the observations, Harvard College, March 21, Lick Observatory, March 26 and 31, I have deduced the following elements of Comet Brooks (1890, March 19):